



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

410

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,631	10/31/2003	Gary Robinson	AAMTC.0118	3378
22858	7590	12/11/2006	EXAMINER	
CARSTENS & CAHOON, LLP			HASSAN, RASHEDUL	
P O BOX 802334			ART UNIT	
DALLAS, TX 75380			PAPER NUMBER	
			2112	

DATE MAILED: 12/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/698,631

Applicant(s)

ROBINSON ET AL.

Examiner

Rashedul Hassan

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>Jan 29, 2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Duplicate Claims

1. Applicant is advised that should claim 10 be found allowable, claim 14 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 2,3,8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The term "sort code" in these claims does not have antecedent basis in the specification and it is not clear what type of data constitutes a "sort code". For the purpose of examination "sort code" is interpreted, in the broadest reasonable interpretation, as a field of the data set usable for the purpose of sorting the result set obtained by a search of the relational database.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (US 2003/0055812 A1), hereinafter Williams, in view of Honjo et al (US 2001/0056378 A1), hereinafter Honjo, and further in view of Bailey et al. (2002/0091690 A1), hereinafter Bailey.

4. For claims 1-7 (a system) and 8-15 (a method), Williams discloses a computer system for identifying a part, the system comprising a scalable database of identification data sets [0023], each data set descriptive of an item and comprising data for a numbering scheme (partID, PartAssemblyID, OEMPartNum, etc), a family category (516), picture files depicting the item (Part Img), and identification criteria (fields in product table) defined from the family category (Fig. 5), a computer-readable medium ([0022]) and a processor in communication with the computer-readable medium and the database (104 in Fig. 1). Williams also teaches that the data sets descriptive of an item further comprise data for ownership (in billboard 118), size (part/detail description in Fig. 4), sort code (status in Fig. 5), supplier ([0092]) and product line (618 in Fig 6C). A user device including the input device and the user display screen is inherently taught by

Art Unit: 2112

Williams as being necessary requirements for user interface. Williams also discloses that the instructions are further configured to present an item screen depicting a data set for a single item [0043]. Williams does not explicitly teach using input boxes for input of a number scheme. However, Honjo discloses a method and system for managing parts used in fluid machinery where he teaches using input boxes for input of a number scheme (102,104,105 in Fig. 6). Furthermore, although Williams discloses a family wizard (390 in Fig. 3), neither Williams nor Honjo discloses presenting a criteria screen to the user where the criteria screen provides identification questions that correlate to the identification criteria for the corresponding family. They also do not disclose that the criteria screen includes a plurality of drop down menus, each menu associated with a corresponding identification question and listing responses thereto and that the item screen includes a selectable option for proceeding to a criteria screen for the family to which the item belongs. But Bailey discloses a searching technique that teaches presenting a criteria screen (Fig. 8A) to the user where the criteria screen provides identification questions (120) that correlate to the identification criteria for the corresponding family and a plurality of drop down menus (122,124,126), each menu associated with a corresponding identification question and listing responses thereto ([0037], [0084] and [0085]). Bailey also discloses that the item screen (Fig. 10) includes a selectable option (158,159 or 52 and 77 in Fig 10) for proceeding to a criteria screen for the family to which the item belongs. Therefore, it would have been obvious, given the general knowledge in the art at the time of the invention, for a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Honjo and Bailey's teachings with that of Robinson to arrive at

Art Unit: 2112

the present invention. The motivation for combining the teachings would have been for searching a part in the database using a number identifier uniquely predetermined for the part (Honjo, [0008]) and for reducing or eliminating the guesswork associated with searching by proactively presenting the user with acceptable choices and letting the user select from among those acceptable choices and also to provide more user control over the specificity of the search (Bailey, [0037]).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rashedul Hassan whose telephone number is 571-272-9481. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30AM-5PM EST and Alt Fri 7:30AM-5PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Stucker can be reached on 571-272-9821. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO

Application/Control Number: 10/698,631

Page 6

Art Unit: 2112

Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call
800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


u/27/06
(Rashedul Hassan)


JEFFREY STUCKER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER